

Ershad firm on removing AL govt thru' mass movement

GOLAPGANJ (Sylhet), Feb 16: Jatiya Party chief and former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad has reiterated his call for the removal of what he termed as 'incompetent and inept government' through a strong mass movement, reports APB.

"We will shed the last drop of our blood, if need be, to establish the rights of the common man," he said while addressing a rally at the local high school ground.

He said those who are out to smear the Islamic values and undermine the country's sovereignty, have no right to stay in power.

Presided over by Osman Harun Chowdhury, chairman of the Golapganj upazila unit of the Jatiya Party, the meeting was addressed, among others, by former prime minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, joint secretary general of Jatiya Party Ismail Hossain Bengal, political advisor to the party chief Barrister A Hasib and organising secretary Nasiruddin Chowdhury.

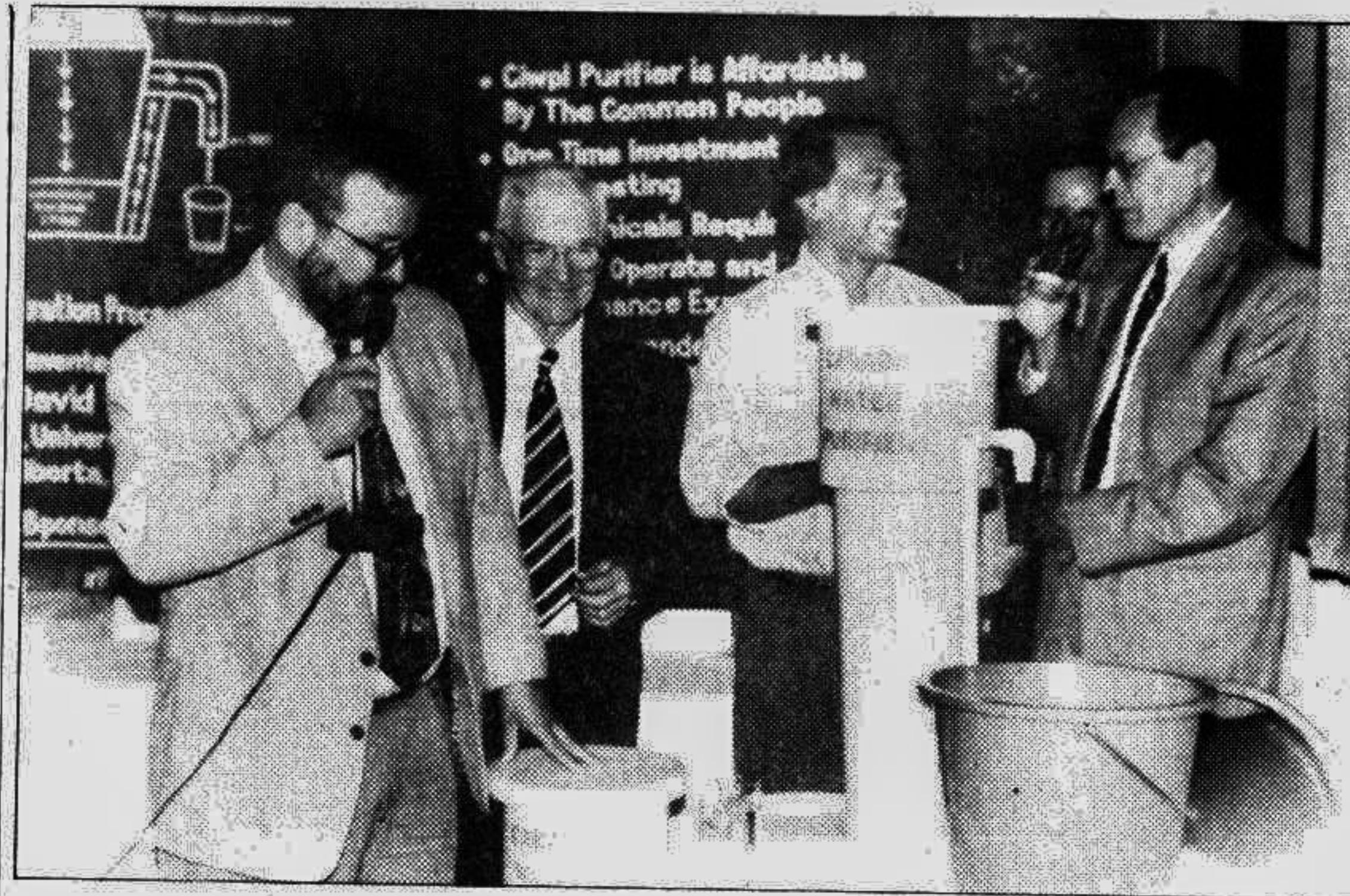
Later in the afternoon, the JP chief also addressed another public meeting at the Zakiganj upazila sadar.

At the Zakiganj public meeting, Ershad accused the ruling party of belittling the image of the luminous son of the soil, the late Commander-in-Chief of War of Independence, General M A G Osmany.

He regretted that the birth and death anniversaries of the valiant freedom fighter were no longer observed with due honour.

"I had committed a mistake by extending my party's support to this government; had Awami League not got the support of Jatiya Party, it could never have formed the government," Ershad observed.

"I have committed a mistake by extending support to an oppressive government," he retorted.



Dr David Manz, the developer of the 'Canada Water Purifier', displaying the filter to newsmen in the city yesterday. Bill Richards, chairman of Canadian International Water Purification Ltd, Dr Kazi Faruque Ahmed, Chairman of Proshika, and Nicholas Etheridge, Canadian High Commissioner, are also seen in the picture. — Star photo

Reception to Dr Garst

Renowned American orthopedic surgeon Dr Ronald J Garst will be accorded a civic reception at the Shahid Suhrawardy Hospital premises in the city on Friday, at 4:30 pm, reports UNB.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf will be present as chief guest while Political Advisor to the Prime Minister Dr SA Malek will be special guest at the function, said an official handout.

Later, Dr Garst will inaugurate a new casualty ward at the hospital.

Dr Garst first came to Bangladesh after the Liberation War to treat the wounded freedom fighters. During his stay here, he established an orthopedic hospital, which is now known as Pangu Hospital.

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Low-cost water purifiers launched in city

By Special Correspondent

A Canadian company and Proshika, a local NGO, has launched a joint-venture project to produce and market 50,000 low-cost water purifiers for domestic use in rural and urban areas to help people access to safe drinking water.

Designed to reduce dependency on tubewell water, a major source of arsenic contamination in Bangladesh, the simple plastic container-based filter using 150-year-old technology has been devised by a Canadian scientist with assistance from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) providing 100,000 dollars.

The purifier is expected to be sold at a price between Tk 600 and Tk 1,000 per unit under the brand name of 'Canadian Water Purifier'. Chairman of the Canadian International Water Purification Ltd, told a press conference in the city yesterday.

The company plans to produce one million units from 18 plants located in different parts of Bangladesh. Dr Kazi Faruque Ahmed, Chairman of Proshika, said the tubewells would be repaired at an estimated cost of Tk 35 lakh 30 thousand.

The device uses simple sand filters which can be used for a life-time, he said, adding that only washing the sand layer is required from time to time.

Nicholas Etheridge, Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, said that CIDA had

provided 100,000 dollars in grant to develop the device and for testing water samples from Chapainawabganj, a worst arsenic-affected area, were tested in Canada.

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